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Federal development plan approved

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The energy minister, Mw. Marie-Christine Marghem, approved the federal development plan 2015-2025 for the Belgian electricity transmission grid. The plan, drawn up by Elia, lists all the investments required to extend and upgrade the grid over the coming decade.

First of all, it provides for stronger interconnections at Belgium's borders to increase the country's current import capacity from 3,500 MW to 6,500 MW by 2020. This objective will be reached by implementing interconnection projects with Germany ([ALEGrO](#)), the United Kingdom ([Nemo](#)) and the Netherlands ([Brabo](#)).

Elia is also lining up substantial investments designed to facilitate the integration of renewable energy into its systems. Accordingly, the long-term aim for offshore wind farms is to connect a potential 2.3 GW to the onshore grid. This will be made possible by implementing the [Stevin](#) project. The development plan also identifies a list of essential upgrades needed to facilitate the integration of onshore renewable energy.

The backbone of Belgium's domestic 380 kV grid will also be upgraded to enable it to accommodate a series of planned conventional generation units.

The plan also lists scheduled projects to be completed by 2025. This more forward-looking section of the plan, which takes on board the EU targets set for 2030, sets out various approaches for the system's future development after 2020

For more information, see <http://www.elia.be/en/grid-data/grid-development/investment-plan/federal-development-plan-2015-2025>.

About Elia

The Elia Group is organised around two electricity transmission system operators (TSOs): Elia Transmission in Belgium and 50Hertz Transmission (in which Elia has a 60% stake), one of the four German transmission system operators, active in the north and east of Germany. With 2,000 employees and a transmission grid comprising some 18,000 km of high-voltage connections serving 30 million consumers, the Elia Group is one of Europe's top 5 TSOs. It efficiently, reliably and securely transmits electricity from generators to distribution system operators and major industrial consumers, while also importing and exporting electricity from and to neighbouring countries. The Group is a driving force behind the development of the European electricity market and the integration of energy generated from renewable sources.

In addition to its system operator activities in Belgium and Germany, the Elia Group offers businesses a range of consultancy and engineering services.

The Group operates under the legal entity Elia System Operator, a listed company whose reference shareholder is municipal holding company Publi-T.